

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-9 have been amended to comply with the written description requirement. Support for these amendments is found in Applicants' specification as filed at page 9, lines 10-25, for example. Applicants request entry of these amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

"Insoluble dye" is clearly disclosed on page 4, lines 20-21 and page 21, lines 6-7 of Applicants' specification as filed. Please also note the description on page 2, lines 7-9.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1008634. Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spinelli (U.S. Pat. No. 5,772,741) in view of Hosmer (U.S. Pat. No. 6,436,178) and Petersen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,201,099). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 to clarify that the hydrophilic segment is obtained by hydrolyzing the vinyl ether with ester side chains. Each reference fails to disclose this feature.

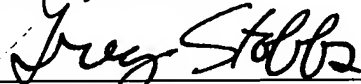
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 5077-000064/US/CPA from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Gregory A. Stobbs
Registration No.: 28,764
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1214
Attorney for Applicant